

The Astrobiology Summer Program at Penn State

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The *Astrobiology Summer Program* draws from universities and colleges throughout the U.S and engages undergraduate students in independent research under the guidance of astrobiologists. Students also participate in a field trip, weekly seminars, informal discussion groups, laboratory tours, stargazing, and a research symposium. Hiking, camping, kayaking, caving, and other recreational opportunities are available, and major east coast cities are only a few hours drive from the campus. The program is in its third year.

Travel and living expenses are covered by the program, and participants receive a substantial stipend for the summer. Application to the program is made online (<http://evo.bio.psu.edu/asp/>) and the deadline is in February. Following review of applications, approximately 8-10 students are selected in March and the 10-week program runs from early June to early August. Students must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents between their sophomore and senior year at a college or university other than Penn State. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. The program is funded by the National Science Foundation and the research is supported by the NASA Astrobiology Institute.